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*For Immediate Release...*

## *Corrections News*

March 13, 2008

Governor Matt Blunt and leaders from 16 state departments, including Corrections, will hold the fourth 'Capital for a Day' tomorrow, March 14, 2008, in Carthage.

Thirty-three MRP Community Steering Teams have been established across Missouri, including the Jasper County team.

"Jasper County has a strong Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team which serves the Carthage area. This group works well together in addressing the needs of offenders who return to the community."

Director Larry Crawford

### Department to Participate in 'Capital for a Day' in Carthage

Keeping his pledge to make state government more accessible to Missourians, Governor Matt Blunt and leaders from 16 state departments will hold the fourth 'Capital for a Day' tomorrow in Carthage.

During Capital for a Day, the Missouri Department of Corrections will hold office hours from 1-5 pm at the Jasper County Courthouse in Carthage. Department Director Larry Crawford, Probation and Parole (P&P) Regional Administrator Dardi Smith and P&P staff will be available to meet with Jasper County area residents.

"Jasper County has a strong Missouri Reentry Process (MRP) Steering Team which serves the Carthage area," said Crawford. "This group works well together in addressing the needs of offenders who return to the community."

Governor Blunt signed a 2005 executive order creating MRP, which is a national model. Missouri has provided consultation and best practices for 11 states. Thirty-three MRP Community Steering Teams have been established across Missouri, including the Jasper County team. The goal of Community Steering Teams is to identify offenders' needs, such as housing, employment and transportation, then partner to meet those needs. The aim is to increase public safety and decrease recidivism rates. A study done by the Department's Research Unit found that six months post release, offenders who received services in a Transitional Housing Unit (THU) had a seven percent lower recidivism rate than offenders who were not housed in a THU for five months or more. Governor Blunt presented the Service Excellence Award to the Missouri Department of Corrections during the 2007 Governor's Conference on Economic Development in Springfield. The Service Excellence Award was presented to the MRP to recognize collaborative excellence by a group of partners who have designed service excellence initiatives that have effectively served unique populations in the workforce system.

Carthage is served by Missouri Probation and Parole District 9 in Joplin. The district covers Jasper, Dade and Barton counties, and serves about 1,500 offenders.

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